



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

## **- Media Advisory -**

Thursday, May 8, 2008

## Arizona Department of Public Safety officers seize more than a quarter million in U.S. currency during April

Several traffic stops by Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers along with the efforts of DPS criminal investigators resulted in the seizure of \$332,032 in drug money during April 2008. All of the money seized was U.S. currency.

The largest money seizure by DPS during a single traffic stop occurred on April 5<sup>th</sup> when a DPS officer stopped a vehicle on Interstate 17 near Cortes Junction. A search of the vehicle with the help of Canine "Donja" resulted in the discovery of \$112,320 in a non factory compartment.

"Everyday on highways throughout the state and during special investigations, Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers are depriving drug cartels of the cash to do business. The cash seizures usually follow a similar pattern with Marijuana seizures statewide. As the cartels desperately try to get their illegal narcotics and cash through Arizona our officers are ever vigilant to get the product and money off the streets," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.*

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